

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

LEON HARRISON, §
§
Petitioner, §
§
V. § CIVIL ACTION NO. H-14-1181
§
WILLIAM STEPHENS, DIRECTOR, §
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL §
JUSTICE, CORRECTIONAL §
INSTITUTIONS DIVISION, §
§
Respondent. §

ORDER ADOPTING RECOMMENDATION
OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Pending is Respondent's Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction as a Successive Petition (Document No. 12) and Petitioner's Federal Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Document No. 1). The Court has received from the Magistrate Judge a Memorandum and Recommendation recommending that Respondent's Motion to Dismiss (Document No. 12) be GRANTED and that this § 2254 proceeding be DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE for lack of jurisdiction. Petitioner filed Objections (Document No. 187) to the Memorandum and Recommendation. The Court, after having made a *de novo* determination of Respondent's Motion to Dismiss, Petitioner's Response, Petitioner's Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus, the Memorandum and Recommendation, and Petitioner's Objections thereto, is of the opinion that the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge are correct and should be and hereby are accepted by the Court in their entirety. Accordingly,

It is ORDERED and ADJUDGED for the reasons set forth in the Memorandum and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge filed on January 7, 2015, which is adopted in its entirety as the opinion of this Court, that Respondent's Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction as a Successive Petition (Document No. 12) is GRANTED, and Petitioner's Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Document No. 1) is DENIED and DISMISSED without prejudice. It is further

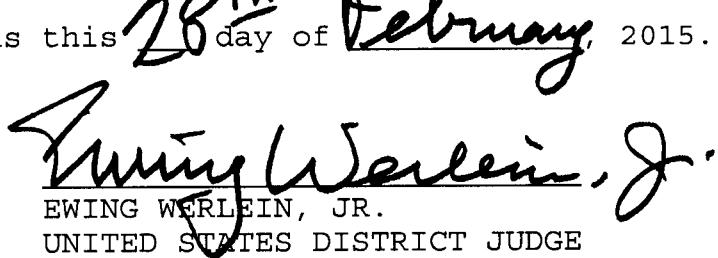
ORDERED that a certificate of appealability is DENIED. A certificate of appealability from a habeas corpus proceeding will not issue unless the petitioner makes "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). This standard "includes showing that reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further." Slack v. McDaniel, 120 S. Ct. 1595, 1603-1604 (2000) (internal quotations and citations omitted). Stated differently, where the claims have been dismissed on the merits, the petitioner "must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong." Id. at 1604; Beazley v. Johnson, 242 F.3d 248, 263 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 122 S.Ct. 329 (2001). When the claims have been dismissed on procedural grounds, the petitioner must show that "jurists of

reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling." Slack, 120 S. Ct. at 1604. A district court may deny a certificate of appealability *sua sponte*, without requiring further briefing or argument. Alexander v. Johnson, 211 F.3d 895, 898 (5th Cir. 2000).

For the reasons set forth in the Memorandum and Recommendation, which has been adopted as the opinion of the Court, the Court determines that reasonable jurists would not find debatable the jurisdictional determination made herein. Thus, a certificate of appealability is DENIED.

The Clerk will enter this Order and send copies to all parties of record.

Signed at Houston, Texas this 28th day of February, 2015.


Ewing Werlein, Jr.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE